**Closure of manganese mines in Andhra Pradesh**

*276. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of manganese mines have been closed down in Andhra Pradesh due to the various legislation on forest conservation;

(b) whether there has been any dialogue with the Ministry of Environment for operation of these mines; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for resumption of mining activities in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**कीटों द्वारा प्रभावित ज्वार की फसल**

*277. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में बड़े पैमाने पर कीटों के हमले से ज्वार की फसल प्रभावित हुई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस कीट संकट पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी के विकास हेतु क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुल्लापल्ली रामचन्द्रन) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) देश में भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद् और राज्य कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों ने कीटों से प्रभावित ज्वार की फसल पर काबू पाने के लिए आवश्यक प्रौद्योगिकी पहले ही विकसित कर ली गई है।

**Prospects of pulse production**

*278. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the achievements of the programmes for development of pulses and their production prospects in the 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) what is the per capita availability of pulses in the country in comparison to the capita demand; and

(c) in what manner Government would meet the demand in the year 1991-92:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) For development of pulses, two schemes viz. Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Central Sector Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP)—Pulses were implemented/being implemented during 1990-91 and 1991-92 to provide inputs support to the farmers. Financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like seed production, adoption of plant protection measures, distribution of seed minikits, and farm implements, organisation of demonstrations etc. These programmes have contributed to increase in production from an average of 12.50 million tonnes per annum during Seventh Plan to a record level estimated at 14.0 million tonnes during 1990-91. Regarding the production prospects for the year 1991-92, it is too early to make a firm assessment.

(b) The requirement of pulses is 53 grams per capita per day as recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) against which the provisional per capita net availabilty of pulses was 42.2 grams in 1989 and 36.5 grams in 1990.

(c) For increasing the production of pulses, two schemes viz. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP)—Pulses are being implemented. Besides, price support/market intervention measures are also being adopted to increase the production of pulses so as to achieve a higher level of per capita availability in the country.